

School Bus No Idling Policy



Applicability:

This policy applies to the operation of every district-owned and/or contracted school bus.

Rationale:

Diesel exhaust from idling school buses can accumulate in and around the bus and pose a health risk to children, drivers and the community. According to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency exposure to diesel exhaust, even at low levels, is a serious health hazard and can cause respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis, lung damage and increases the risk of lung cancer. Idling buses also waste fuel and money.

Our school district agrees to undertake the following steps immediately:

- School bus drivers will shut off bus engines immediately upon reaching destination, and buses will not idle while waiting for passengers in the school yard. This rule applies to daily route travel, field trips, and transportation to and from athletic events. School buses will not be restarted until they are ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit the pick-up area.
- School districts will limit idling time during to the manufacturer's recommendation-generally 3-5 minutes in all but the coldest weather. Below are recommended guidelines, however, in warmer months idling is not necessary.

If the outside temperature is:	Above 32 degrees F:	5 minute maximum
	Between 32 and 0 degrees F:	15 minute maximum
	Below 0 degrees F:	as necessary

- Schools should provide an indoor waiting space for drivers to keep warm.
- All bus drivers should receive a copy of this policy or equivalent educational materials at the beginning of every school year. School district bus drivers will complete a "no idling" training session.
- School bus parking zones should avoid proximity to school air intake vents, and park buses at a diagonal to prevent front-to-back passing of emissions and reduce diesel fumes in each bus.
- To reduce engine warm-up time, avoid starting difficulties, and help defrost windows, consider using block heaters that plug into electrical outlets or inline auxiliary fuel fired heaters.
- If a bus needs an engine to run flashing lights during longer duration loading and unloading; install a heavy-duty battery system, an extra battery and/or change the circuit configurations to power lights by battery without running the engine.
- Shorten bus routes, particularly for older, higher emitting vehicles. Review bus purchasing schedules and routing to improve emission reductions.
- Exceptions to this policy include conditions that would compromise passenger safety, such as extreme weather or idling in traffic.

School District: _____

Name of Individual Authorizing Implementation: _____

Effective Date: _____